

JUF News, May 8, 2007

Nearly 10,000 Chicago-area Jews put on their walking shoes this past Sunday to show their support for Israel at the 36th annual Walk With Israel, as part of the Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago's (JUF/JF) Israel Solidarity Day celebration.

"Walkers gathered at eight different locations throughout the city and suburbs for 5.9-kilometer walks in celebration of Israel's 59th anniversary. Each walk featured food and music, among other spirited activities, and some locations held shorter Family Walks for the children. U.S. representatives Jan Schakowsky (IL) and Mark Kirk (IL) helped kick off two of the walks by showing their support for the state of Israel.

"It was just incredible to enjoy this wonderful sense of community at the same time we were raising money for such an important cause," said Scott Heyman, chairman of Israel Solidarity Day 2007. "It was the ultimate combination of celebration and solidarity."

All dollars raised will go toward the "Supplies for Success" program, designated to help students in the north of Israel affected by last summer's attacks to start the 2007 school year off right, by purchasing school supplies, school trips, enrichment programs and hot meals. Plus, every \$3 raised will be matched by \$1 from an Israeli office supply company.

Participants who raised \$100 or more from sponsors received a \$100 voucher for travel to Israel on a JUF Israel Experience program (for teens and young adults, ages 15-23) or a JUF Mission (for adults 24 and older). And it's still not too late to sponsor a participant.

"New this year, walkers were encouraged to take pictures with their own digital cameras to help create a huge online album of the faces and sights of Israel Solidarity Day. To see the photos you took of friends, family and fellow Walkers celebrating their support for Israel, check out the online album at [www.juf.org/walk](http://www.juf.org/walk) . Photos still can be submitted to [IsraelSolidarity@juf.org](mailto:IsraelSolidarity@juf.org) .

Web visitors check back daily for updates and photos from each walk location.

Israel Solidarity Day is organized by the JUF/JF and the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), in cooperation with the Jewish Community Centers of Chicago (JCC) and the JUF Tikkun Olam Volunteer Network (TOV). The JUF/JF is Illinois' largest social-service agency, funding and providing essential social welfare, education and relief programs to more than 300,000 Chicagoans of all faiths and for 2 million Jews in Israel and worldwide.

For more information, call the Israel Solidarity Day Hotline at (312)444-2905 or email [IsraelSolidarity@juf.org](mailto:IsraelSolidarity@juf.org)